

## LITTLE INVENTIONS EARN BIG FORTUNES

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Whenever a new patent comes out, especially some little thing that anybody might have made, you will always hear the remark: "Why couldn't I have thought of that?" Fortunes are made from even the most trivial contrivances. A man walked from Philadelphia to Washington to patent the gimlet-pointed screw, and the simple idea eventually earned him more than a million dollars. The rubber tip on the end of lead pencils made its inventor rich. The metal point on the end of your shoe, which earned a fortune for the woman who thought of it, and the copper cap that so long adorned the toes of children's shoes earned \$2,000,000 for the lucky person who patented it.

Many valuable inventions were hit upon in a most accidental way. The art of making sugar white was discovered by a harmless old speckled hen. This feathered matron one day went for a walk through a field of clay, and later, without taking the precaution to wipe her feet, walked through a sugar mill on the same plantation, indifferent to the fact that she was scattering clay over the loose mounds of sugar as she passed. Afterward it was discovered that wherever her tracks had fallen on the moist sugar the clay had whitened it. Scientists took up the matter, and from this incident introduced the method of bleaching sugar by the clay process.

A dog gave us the art of dyeing cloth in quite as accidental a manner. One afternoon so many years ago that the date is of small consequence, a noted man and his sweetheart went for a walk along the sands of the seashore, in a far-off country. A little dog trailed along at their heels, and becoming weary of much love-making, finally ran ahead and went fishing among the rocks. One particular shellish which he captured and devoured exuded a fluid which dyed the hair about his mouth a pretty purple. Investigation of this incident disclosed the science of dyeing cloth, which now gives a happy feminine world the pleasure of flaunting so many brilliant colors in its attire.

A man from Michigan was told by the doctors to take his wife South for her health. He purchased a big wagon and team for the trip and thought to make some profit by carrying a stock of feather dusters to sell along the way. One day he went to the factory where his dusters were being made, and while standing in the yard talking to one of the employees, picked up from the ground one of the "strutters," or tall feathers from a turkey—the refuse from the duster factory. He began idly twisting a thread back and forth through its broken edges, and the idea of the featherbone came to him from the result of the idle play of his hands. The featherbone is the successor of whalebone, and is indispensable to the attire of the modern woman. He patented the idea and received so much money from it that he will never have to travel overland in a wagon again unless he wants to.

A man standing in front of the post-office in Washington, D. C., bent a small piece of tin in his fingers until it took the shape of a T. "This would make a good paper fastener," he remarked to the man with whom he was talking, and he straightaway had the idea patented. Another man made money from the device of an imbedded string in the end of an envelope to cut the paper as it is drawn out. Still another man added to this idea by tying a knot in the end of the string to keep it from being drawn through.

It is interesting to note how man has borrowed many of his ideas from the animal world. Wasps made paper from wood long before man decided it was a good substitute for rags. The folding scissors and folding pocket compass are only copies of the folding lower jaw of the dragon fly. The flying squid, a species of cuttle fish, has a way of projecting itself as high as twelve feet above the surface of the water by forcibly expelling water from its body. Man saw this and invented the skyrocket. The rope-making machine used in the United States navy yard follows almost the precise lines that a spider does when making his own frail cable.

Women have been prominent in the field of invention, and there are over 2,500 different devices credited to their ingenuity. Of the list of things invented by women about 90 per cent are devoted to the home, the kitchen, and to women's dress. The records in the Patent Office tell the history of woman and her progress during the past hundred years. The first patent given to a woman in the nineteenth century was granted to Mary Kier in 1839 for "straw weaving with silk or thread"—the probable forerunner of American matting. One of the most recent inventions by woman is a shoe-string that won't come untied.

The records of the Patent Office show how some people have invaded the field of invention with most eccentric ideas. One of these is an anti-scratching device for hens. This unique contrivance when fastened to the ankle of a hen, not only prevents her from scratching, but absolutely forces her to walk away in spite of herself. Each time she kicks backward the points of the device stick in the ground and propel her forward. An invention called the "anti-snooring device" is something similar to a telephone. It is over the head and has a tube running from the ear to a piece that fits over the mouth. No sooner does the sleeper begin to snore than the sound is transmitted to his own ear, causing him to awake at once. It would certainly be a boon to the public if the Pullman Car Company would consider this patent and furnish it to fat men who travel on sleepers. Another ambitious inventor has brought out a machine which will automatically put a man's hat when he passes a lady acquaintance on the street.

merely had to turn his plow about, pull the hayrack, and greet the astonished enemy with a load of grape or shrapnel. The story is told of an Iowa man who patented an India rubber sidewalk. After much lobbying with his friends among the town council, he was allowed to put down several yards of it as an experiment. As a noise-absorber it proved most effective, and the early demonstrations seemed to be living down all skepticism in regard to it so rapidly that the inventor's fortune was all but made. Then the inventor made a fatal blunder. To show how solid and strong it was, he began jumping up and down on it with his whole weight. The walk could not forget that it was still rubber, and when the ambitious inventor planked his heels into it he was promptly pitched over the fence into a briar patch. The episode proved such a joke that the building popularity of the new idea began to wane, and there are still no rubber sidewalks in Iowa.

Another happy idea that came to grief was the adjustable pulpit brought out by a Texas inventor. An observing member of a certain congregation in the Lone Star State noticed that some of their preachers were tall and some were short, so he conceived the idea of making an adjustable pulpit which would accommodate itself to all heights. The first preacher

## WHEN BESSIE MOVED.

Bessie sat with her face against the pane of the south window. Ever since the gathering dusk of the winter afternoon had settled down she had watched the road for signs of the team. Two of the loads had come and gone. The last should have started only an hour or so after the others, yet it was nearly 9 o'clock and the familiar form had not put in appearance.

"The door," she said, "the door started her and she covered into the darkness, hoping that the intruder, whoever it might be, would become tired and go away. Instead the knocking continued, and presently there was a gust of cold air as the door was thrown open. It could not be the folks; they were coming from the south. It must be a tramp."

The furniture was still piled in the center of the room and there was no hiding place save the great cupboard, that had been Grandma Bailey's. Softly she slipped across the room, but when she entered carrying a lantern.

Trembling, she obeyed his command to come out, and stood facing him. There was nothing very terrible about his appearance. He was muffled up to his eyes in coats and scarf, but the eyes were frank and kindly, and there was a twinkle suggestive of fun.

"Give an account of yourself," he demanded. "Trying to steal the house?"

"We are moving in," she cried, indignantly. "I came on with the first load, and the others are coming. They have not arrived yet. I don't know what can be keeping them. I am Bessie Lyford," she added, as an afterthought.

"And I'm Joel Ware," he introduced. "I just got back from town and saw the lights. I did not know that the new owners were moving in, and came over to see the place and the house. I live across the way."

"I have been here since eleven," she said. "We are moving over from Groton. I was to show the men where to put the things. The last load went—oh! years ago."

"And you've been sitting here since then watching for your folks," he said, looking at the chair by the window. "Had your supper?" she said, indifferently. "The kitchen things are on the last load."

to use the automatic device was a short man, and the inventor was on hand and took his measure to a nicety. Later, when a six-foot pastor came on, the inventor had the grip and could not go to church. The pulpit was set for his short predecessor, and nobody could do a thing with it. The inventor had insisted that his device was easy enough to manipulate, but it proved most stubborn, and would not submit to a readjustment. The tall man started in with it, and it was so low that in reading his text he had to stoop over almost as much as if his book were placed on a chair. When he began to preach he was getting along well enough until he suddenly stamped his foot to emphasize a point. His action released the spring in the floor and the pulpit shot upward until it completely hid the preacher from the view of his hearers. The reader of his sermon sounded about the same as if he had been in a well. The congregation were so indignant at the inventor for precipitating this embarrassing situation that he was almost churched.

Thomas Jefferson may be termed the "Father of the Patent Office," for it was he who saw to the passing of the act creating the office and the copyright system. For a number of years he was one of the committee who passed on the merits of all designs submitted to the office. One Dr. Thornton, a rather eccentric man, was the only department clerk the office had for a long period. During the war of 1812, when the British soldiers had a cannon trained on the Patent Office to destroy it, the doctor rushed out and placed his body before the mouth of the cannon, and when the British soldiers and vandals would destroy the building containing models that would benefit all the world, the ball must first go through his body. It was spared, but in 1836 the office burned, and the only thing saved was a book of no particular value.

## EVERY GUEST GETS A LEMON

The annual banquet of the Christian Endeavor Society of the Vermont Avenue Christian Church, held Tuesday night in the private dining-room of the Young Men's Christian Association, was a most delightful affair. About forty of the young people were present, and the only guests were the pastor and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Power.

The lemon was the emblem of the evening, and everybody got at least one. These lemons were original comic valentines, cut out of cardboard, hand-painted on one side and bearing a verse on the other. The verses were composed by members of the committee in charge. They were mostly of the limerick variety, and almost without exception were bright and clever. Artistic programmes, with hand-painted, deckle-edge covers and typewritten inside pages, had been prepared by some of the young ladies.

After dinner there was a series of brief toasts by the officers and committee chairman, as follows: "The Big Stick," R. E. Kinsell, president; "The Next Thing," Miss Margaret Allen, vice president; "The Minute Man," A. L. Williams, recording secretary; "Pen and Ink," Miss Alice Van Arsdale, corresponding secretary; "Dollars and Sense," Mrs. A. W. Starratt, treasurer; "In Minor Key," Mrs. A. L. Williams, chorister; "Sharps and Flats," Miss Margaret Hines, pianist; "In Union There Is Strength," E. A. McIlwain, delegate to District Union; "The Rising Generation," Miss Ardell Payne, junior superintendent; "Look Out," A. W. Starratt, chairman lookout committee; "Some Leaders I Have Known," L. R. Manville, chairman prayer-meeting committee; "The Glad Hand," Miss Katherine Summy, chairman social committee, represented by Miss Helen Summy; "The Field Is the World," Miss Ella Howe, chairman missionary committee; "Don't," Milo W. Munson, chairman temperance committee, and "Some Things Endeavors Should Know," J. M. Piekens, chairman information committee.

Starratt, the treasurer, had a memorandum of articles which she said she had found in the collections, and she undertook to return them to the contributors. A clerical-looking button was handed to Dr. Power, and other persons received buttons, buckles, etc. A check was identified as having presumably come from the chairman of the temperance committee. She then moved that a collection of real money be taken up, but this motion was overwhelmingly voted down.

After the talks came the reading and distribution of the lemons by the recording secretary, A. L. Williams. At the conclusion the members met and got even with Mr. Williams by presenting him several varieties of lemons, a little crate of lemon drops, and a lemon squeezer.

Mrs. Power then spoke in humorous vein on "The Power Behind the Throne," explaining that she composed Dr. Power's sermons, while he got the credit for them. Dr. Power had the last word on the topic. "Finally, Brothers! In the pleasantness of the evening the practical work of the society was not forgotten, and plans were discussed for future work."

Those already mentioned, the following were present: Miss Mercy Adams, G. J. P. Barber, Miss Laura Bates, Miss Best, Miss Deola Chapman, Mr. Dew, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Dewey, Mr. Humphries, Mrs. R. E. Kinsell, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Ella Miner, Miss Ethel Miner, Miss Louise Morgan, Mrs. M. W. Munson, Mrs. J. M. Piekens, Irving Sum, Hugh Spiker, Clarence Spiker, Miss Emily Spiker, Harry Thompson, and Miss Vera Vail Arsdale.

On Friday evening the Christian Endeavor Society of Keller Memorial Lutheran Church held its regular business meeting at the home of Mrs. W. W. Keck. At the close of the business session

## DAILY FASHION HINT.

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She looked up with a smile, as he entered.

"I was tempted to run across and help you with the dishes," she cried. "I never thought or I should have offered to do so before you left."

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"But it's such a long, cold drive," she protested.

"I guess a little snow won't hurt me, or the team, much," he laughed. "You'll be carrying all the snow what the matter is. I'll bring in some wood for the stove, and then get along."

He built up a roaring fire and then turned to Bessie.

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She fell asleep after a time and was unconscious of the speeding hours until she was awakened by a light touch. She sprang to her feet with a cry of alarm, but was reassured by a glimpse of Joel's kindly face.

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## MEN'S SOCIETY MEETS.

Hears Interesting Addresses and Elects Two New Members.

At the meeting of the Men's Society of Mount Vernon Place M. E. Church South, last Tuesday evening, an address was delivered by Representative John L. Burnett, of Alabama. His subject was "War Issues and Reconstruction days in North Alabama." The address was frequently interrupted by hearty applause. Upon the request of the society, Senator A. J. McLaurin, of Mississippi, who was also present, made a short speech, which was greatly appreciated.

During the intermission which followed the audience was served with hot coffee, cocoa, and sandwiches. At the business session John A. Quintman and John W. Racey were elected and obligated as members of the society.

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Christian Endeavor Society Gathers at Annual Banquet Board.

Members Exchange Original Comic Valentines with Verses Composed Especially for the Occasion.

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## Elphonzo Youngs Company

428 Ninth St. Phone Main 1858.

Groceries—Wholesale and Retail.

Just a Few Specials—

To-day, and a cordial invitation to visit the store. We want you to know the advantages of buying here.

Apricot Wafers—

Fancy wooden boxes, 30c.

Genuine Rosen Paprika—

1/4-pound tins, 25c.

Imported Frankfurters—

Large cans, 4 sticks, 30c.

Home-made Mangoes—

Stuffed, 5c. a bottle.

Fine Bloater Mackerel—

Cut in four pieces; in stone crocks, 10 lbs. net weight, \$2.00.

Burnt Onion Sauce—

A new delicious flavoring for soups, steaks, and gravies, 30c. a bottle.

Genuine Imported Cheese—

Roquefort, Edam, Camembert, Swiss, Parmesan, Pine Apple, English Dairy, Sap Sago.

Down Town—Near the Market.

The evening was occupied with a short programme and games. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

On Sunday morning the pastor, Rev. C. H. Butler, preached an Endeavor-day sermon. Sunday evening the society celebrated two anniversaries, the twenty-sixth of Christian Endeavor and its own fourteenth birthday. The following programme was given: Birthday greeting from the juniors, by Ruth Tate; address on committee work, A. W. Cummings; solo, Miss Florence Buehler; messages from former presidents, read by Adolph Bowdler, the messages being from Joseph C. Boss, of Philadelphia, and Dr. O. A. T. Swain, of Massachusetts; address on the relation of Christian Endeavor to the Sunday school, by Dr. H. H. Butler; address, Rev. C. H. Butler. There were present four former presidents of the society—Rev. C. H. Butler, Mr. L. A. Kallbach, Adolph Bowdler, and Miss Maude M. Keck. Several selections were rendered by the Christian Endeavor choir, of which the following persons are members: Misses Florence Buehler, Florence Little, Anna and Clara Mansfield, Ethel Bateson, Edwin Daley, Harry Daley, Will Daley, Raymond Boesch, James Mally, John Weber, Carl Bodenstien, and Mr. Killian. W. O. Little is the leader, and Will Weber the organist.

The Endeavors of the First Congregational Church held a special meeting in celebration of Christian Endeavor day. Seventy invitations were sent to honorary and former members, resulting in a very large attendance. Dr. Paul Johnson led the meeting, and special talks were made by Carlisle H. Ball, Mr. Gehl, Miss Green, and Miss Fairfield. The Christian Endeavor quartet sang two selections.

Registrations continue to come in to the headquarters of the District Christian Endeavor Union, in the Bond Building, for the trip to the Seattle convention next summer. During the past week President Tarring received call from W. Scoll, president of the Manitowish Pike's Peak Railroad, and arrangements were made for the trip up Pike's Peak. The probabilities are that this trip will be taken in the early morning, so as to see the sun rise.

A stereoscopic lecture, "Out of the Beaten Path," was given at the Vermont Avenue Christian Church under the auspices of the District Christian Endeavor Union, by Dr. J. H. Johnson, of the Leaman Memorial Hospital, Young-Kong, China. Dr. Johnson is a medical missionary. He presented a large number of fine views taken by himself, showing conditions in the interior of China away from the usually traveled routes.

Officers of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church were installed as follows: President, Daniel W. Chase; first vice president, Harry Marshall; second vice president, Miss Daisy Holt Wright; recording secretary, Miss Carrie E. Adams; assistant secretary, Miss Rosemary Payne; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary M. Williams; treasurer, Miss Mary McPherson; pianist, Miss Louise Clark; chorister, Thomas Miller; chairman of committees, William Edwards; look-out, Miss Hattie E. Akers; relief, Miss Nellie Bowler; missionary, R. L. E. social, Miss Carrie Medley; good literature, Miss Annie Leland; Sunday school, Miss S. E. Miner; flower, Miss Mattie Nutt; temperance, Miss Beatrice Ware; information, Miss Beatrice Ware; Occasional Walker; calling, Miss Ruth Arnold. The services were conducted by Joseph E. Lee.

Christian Endeavor was largely represented in the demonstration at the Capitol, Thursday, in favor of the Webster bill for prohibition in the District of Columbia. Many of the Christian Endeavor monogram pins were to be seen on young people in the throng, and the red, white and blue badges of the District Christian Endeavor Union were in evidence. The spokesman of the Endeavors before the committee was Edward Tarring, president of the union, who stated that he represented between Fairmount Seminary, members of more than 100 societies in eight denominations.

## CHURCH PEOPLE TO RALLY.

Meeting in Interest of North Capitol M. E. Announced for To-morrow.

A rally of the church people of this city in the interest of North Capitol M. E. Church is announced for to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock, in Metropolitan M. E. Church, Fourth-and-a-half and C streets northwest.

Judge Thomas H. Anderson will preside, and Hon. J. Adam Bede, of Minnesota, will speak on "Some American Ideals." A. B. Browne will give some interesting facts about the North Capitol Church. R. R. Roderick and Mrs. D. Olin Leech will sing, and Prof. Tasker will preside at the organ.

The pastor, Rev. Alexander Belaski, is anxious to have all the friends of the church, as well as his personal friends, present at this final meeting.

## College Girls See "Peer Gyn"

The orchestra chairs of the National Theater presented a pretty picture last night, due to the presence of over one hundred and fifty college girls at the performance of "Peer Gyn," by Richard Mansfield. Twenty of the young ladies were from Mount Vernon Seminary and twenty from the Hamilton Institute. Belcourt Seminary contributed sixty-five pupils, and fifty were from Fairmount Seminary. The parties of young ladies arrived at the playhouse in carriages and created a good deal of attention as they passed through the foyer. This afternoon Washington College will send thirty-four girls to see "Peer Gyn," this being the last performance of that play. Mr. Mansfield will appear in "Beau Brummel" to-night, and among his audience will be one hundred and thirty-eight students from the National Park Seminary.

## AMUSEMENTS.

TO-NIGHT TWO O'CLOCK

NEW NATIONAL

MR. RICHARD

MANSFIELD

MATINEE TO-DAY—LAST TIME

PEER GYN

TO-NIGHT EIGHT O'CLOCK

WILLIAM

GILLETTE

In His New Comedy-Drama,

"Clarice"

ELMENORF

Next Monday, "Scotland"

Seats, \$1, 75c, 50c. Now on Sale.

TO-NIGHT

25c to \$1.50

Independent of the Theatrical Trust.

LAST 2 PERFORMANCES.

THE ONLY MUSICAL SHOW IN TOWN.

JAMES T. POWERS

THE BLUE MOON

SUNDAY NIGHT—MOTION PICTURES AND

NEXT WEEK—SEATS NOW.

GUY STANDING

—AND—

ODETTE TYLER

In the Stirring Drama of Western Life,

THE LOVE ROUTE.

COLUMBIA TO-NIGHT AT 8:15.

MATINEE TO-DAY AT 2:15.

DANIEL FROHMAN PRESENTS

LAWRENCE D'ORSAY

IN THE THREE-ACT COMEDY,

The Embassy Ball.

By AUGUSTUS THOMAS.

Author of THE EARL OF PAUQUET.

NEXT WEEK—SEATS NOW ON SALE.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MAGICIAN.

KELLAR

ACCOMPANIED BY

PAUL VALADON,